

Loudoun County Government
DISABILITIES SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

November 2, 2010

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Frank Lombardi, Ken Shipman, Tim Tozer, Tom Wlodkowski, Joe Granata, Ronald Hoogerwerf.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julian Murray, Rowe Leathers, Lovely Lall, Angela Shirazi, Liz Mills.

INACTIVE MEMBERS: Greg Conrow

STAFF: Catherine Motivans (DSB County Staff Liaison); Andy Beacher (Loudoun County Director of Transportation)

PUBLIC: Tracee Garner (LEND); Bill Ward (LEND); Rowena Beatty (Special Recreation Advisory Board); Bill Haney (ECHO); Dean Lawrence; Pam Forshee (VRTA); Mike Socha (VRTA); Liz Huibregtse (Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging).

I. DISCUSSION WITH ANDY BEACHER

Mr. Beacher reported that the County is working on two key transportation plans: (1) Countywide Transportation Plan; and (2) Dulles Metrorail.

CTP: This plan was adopted by the County in June 2010 and incorporated long-range transit plans. However, the new CTP does not discuss how to actually implement the CTP. According to Mr. Beacher, the County is currently working on a development plan, and they hope to complete work next year.

Metrorail Extension: Phase I (which extends to Wiehle Avenue in Reston) is projected to be completed in 2013. Phase II will extend Metro into Loudoun with two stations and is expected to be completed in 2016. Mr. Beacher's department is currently focusing on station designs. The stations will be in the middle of the median, so bridges will be needed. The platforms will have a new design with a wider platform and include raised "dimples" on the edges. Mr. Beacher stated that WMATA is required to provide para-transit services within ½-mile of the Metro stations. Mr. Beacher referred to this as the Metro Access service. The full-time staff member working on the Metro expansion into Loudoun County is Tom Farley.

Questions and Answers:

1. DSB: Other Metro stations have few handicapped spaces in the kiss & ride area. Mr. Beacher said he did not know how the new stations would be laid out and would have to look into this issue.

2. DSB: What is on the other side of the pedestrian bridge? Mr. Beacher said it will be a mixture of parking, residential, office, etc. The DSB asked whether Loudoun County is looking into audible traffic signals. Mr. Beacher said these sorts of signals (if used) would come later in the process.

3. DSB: Has Loudoun partnered with other jurisdictions. Mr. Beacher said Loudoun is working closely with other Metro jurisdictions.

4. DSB: What happens post-CTP? Mr. Beacher said that the County is working on the Transit Development Plan with the state. This will help to identify what to develop. Right now, the County is in the initial stages and is working with a consultant.

5. DSB: Who should we work with on your staff? Mr. Beacher said the DSB should work with Nancy Gourley.

6. Would DSB outreach to Nancy Gourley to talk about DSB recommendations? Mr. Beacher said yes, and that he would share the DSB handout with Nancy.

7. DSB informed Mr. Beacher of its concern that, currently, it is very difficult to travel across the Loudoun County/Fairfax County lines. The DSB noted that it is important to not only move people within Loudoun County, but also to neighboring counties as well. Comments were made that to cross county lines would require additional funding. VRTA noted that it has been contacted by the County consultant assisting to develop implementation plan for CTP for information on gaps in service and it would pass along the DSB handout as well.

8. Comment by ECHO: They provide transportation for most of the people for work programs. ECHO provides all of their own funding with the exception of vehicle replacement. ECHO has received money from the County for this in the past, but is concerned that WMATA will swallow all of the money from the tax fund (and effectively end the pool of money from which ECHO gets its vehicle replacement costs). Mr. Beacher confirmed that the gas tax will go towards funding the Metrorail extension. This will occur upon commencement of operations in 2016-2017.

9. Will Loudoun County adopt MetroAccess? Mr. Beacher said yes.

10. Will there be feeder buses to Wiehle? Mr. Beacher said yes.

11. How should the DSB proceed? Mr. Beacher said he would get back to the DSB on some of the issues raised during the meeting. He suggested that we get to know some of the other County directors and to establish a dialogue with the planning department and commission, and make the DSB's concerns known during the development process.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracee Garner noted that LEND is hosting a focus group on November 19 in Purcellville. She requested the DSB's assistance in passing out flyers. Pam Forshee said she could help.

Pam Forshee is going to training in Blacksburg, Virginia for mobility management. Ms. Forshee also noted that she serves as the transit manager for Clark County. Tom Wlodkowski brought up an issue regarding the traffic on Route 7 and the Ashburn/Sterling route.

Pam noted that VRTA provides 48 hours of curb-to-curb service in Loudoun County every day. The demand for services is growing as the county continues to grow. Mike Socha said that VRTA is meeting with Nancy Gourley to evaluate and analyze all of the fixed-route services.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Tim Tozer motioned to approve the October 2010 minutes; Ken Shipman seconded the motion. October 2010 minutes approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Retreat

Catherine Motivans provided a summary of the DSB's Annual Retreat. Ronald Hoogerwerf noted that Survey Monkey is accessible to persons with disabilities.

B. Village at Leesburg Update

Ron Hoogerwerf has a November 19 meeting with the management company to discuss the DSB's concerns. Frank Lombardi will reach out to Supervisor Burk prior to this meeting to advise her of the meeting and its purpose.

C. Changing the DSB Meeting Time

Catherin will distribute a reminder by e-mail that the DSB is changing its meeting date to the third Thursday of every month effective January 2011.

VI. STAFF REPORT

Catherine Motivans received a call from Gloria Barber about a lack of electronic scooter at the Kohl's, RiteAid, and CVS stores in Leesburg. Frank Lombardi said he will return Ms. Barber's call.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 7, 7:00 p.m.